

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8153
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C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 5274

AF/W AND MISSION FOR AMBASSADOR EASUM AND CAHILL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CASC, EARR, EFIN, NI (LEFEVRE, LOUIS)
SUBJECT: STATUS OF LEFEVRE CASE

REF: (A) LAGOS 5196, (B) EASUM-WYMAN TELCON OF APRIL 26, (C)
LAGOS 4316

1. EMBOFF PEASHOCK SAW LEFEVRE EVENING APRIL 26 FOR UPDATE ON
PLANNED PETITION FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL REVIEW OF CASE. HOWEVER,
LEFEVRE HAD NOT SEEN ROTINI WILLIAMS SINCE APRIL 25 HEARING AND
HAD NO NEW INFORMATION ON PETITION. LEFEVRE DID SAY HE WILL TRY
TO MEET WILLIAMS APRIL 27 OR 28 TO DISCUSS PETITION STRATEGY.

2. WHEN ASKED ABOUT MECHANICS OF PETITION, LEFEVRE ADMITTED
THAT HE DID NOT KNOW PRECISELY HOW CHANNEL WORKS.. NONETHELESS,
IT WAS LEFEVRE'S IMPRESSION THAT PETITION TO ATTORNEY GENERAL
IS ALTERNATIVE AVAILABLE TO SOMEONE CHARGED WITH CRIME IF HE
BELIEVES HE WOULD BE JUDGED UNFAIRLY IN REGULAR COURTS. ATTORNEY
GENERAL, IF HE ACCEPTS PETITION, HAS POWER TO REVIEW CASE, EITHER
DISMISSING CHARGES OR BRINGING IT TO TRIAL. ATTORNEY GENERAL
ALSO CAN TRY CASE HIMSELF. FYI - EMBASSY WILL SEEK DEFINITION
FROM AN ATTORNEY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL'S POWERS AND MECHANICS AS
THEY APPLY TO LEFEVRE CASE. WILL TRANSMIT TO DEPARTMENT ASAP.
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END FYI.

3. EMBOFF AND LEFEVRE DISCUSSED POSSIBLE EMBASSY ACTIONS TO SPEED
FINAL DISPOSITION OF CASE. LEFEVRE, WHO HAD JUST COMPLETED TELCON
WITH AIG'S ABOUZEID, WANTED IMMEDIATE ACTION, SAYING THAT EMBASSY
SHOULD QUOTE TAKE THE GLOVES OFF UNQUOTE AND QUOTE LAY IT ON THE
LINE UNQUOTE TO THE FMG. NONETHELESS, HE AGREED THAT DIRECT

EMBASSY PRESSURE ON LEGAL SYSTEM, I.E., ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, MIGHT BACKFIRE. PETITION THEN SHOULD BE HANDLED, FOR MOMENT AT LEAST, ONLY BY ROTINI WILLIAMS. LEFEVRE DID SUGGEST THAT EMBASSY CONFRONT FMG OFFICIALS WITH THEIR INFORMAL PROMISE THAT CASE WOULD BE EXPEDITED AND CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR QUICK CONCLUSION OF CASE, I.E., DISMISSAL OF CHARGES. FINALLY, LEFEVRE VOLUNTEERED THAT HE AND AIG WOULD NOT ACCEPT DEPORTATION AS A POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO PROBLEM, SAYING THAT THIS WOULD DAMAGE AIG POSITION HERE AND HURT LEFEVRE'S CHANCES FOR FUTURE OVERSEAS ASSIGNMENTS.

4. LEFEVRE PROMISED TO KEEP EMBASSY APPRISED OF ANY DEVELOPMENTS.

5. ANOTHER EMBASSY OFFICER HAS APPOINTMENT TO DISCUSS CASE APRIL 28 WITH POLICE INSPECTOR GENERAL YUSUF. OFFICER WILL REMIND YSUF OF HIS STATED INTENTION OF CONCLUDING THE INVESTIGATION VERY EXPEDITIOUSLY (REFTEL C). HE WILL ALSO ENDEAVOR TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER LEFEVRE WOULD BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY IF THE PRESIDENT OF AIG PROVIDED AN ASSURANCE THAT LEFEVRE WOULD BE SENT BACK TO NIGERIA SHOULD FURTHER QUESTIONING BE NECESSARY.
WYMAN

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